GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4036
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2003
IMPORT OF BLACK PEPPER
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some spice exporters have imported black pepper of other country origin and re-exported the same as Malabar Gold-I quality pepper which commands a high price in international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the exporters;

(c) whether the French authorities detained a consignment of red chillies from India at Marseilles, which was subjected to analysis and found to contain Sudan-1 a carcinogenic red dye; and

(d) if so, the mechanism available at Indian ports to check the quality of Indian produce before shipment?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Two exporters had re-exported duty free imported Black Pepper grading them as Malabar Garbled (MG-1) and Tellichery Garbled Extra Bold (TGEB), grade designations applicable to pepper grown in India, while fulfilling their export obligation against import of Black Pepper. Spices Board has since suspended the certificate of registration as exporter of spices of the two concerned exporters.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Whereas inspection of export consignments of spices is not mandatory, exporters desirous of getting their consignments inspected and certified, for purposes of fulfilling importing countries requirements, may avail the services of recognised Government/ Private agencies.